

Sherry L. Capello

Business Management, 1983



Growing up in a blue-collar family, Sherry Capello learned from a young age the importance of working hard, which has carried her far in her career. Capello is currently serving her second term as mayor of the city of Lebanon. In January 2010, Capello was sworn in as Lebanon's mayor for her first term, becoming the city's third female mayor.

Capello has always lived in Lebanon County. Her first public sector job came in 1987 when she went to work for Lebanon County as a zoning officer. When she left the county 10 years later, she was chief zoning officer. In 1997, Capello was hired as assistant borough manager for Palmyra and, after four months, was named borough manager. After 11 years with Palmyra, Capello was lured into working for Derry Township, where she was assistant director of community development until she decided to run for mayor of Lebanon.

As mayor, Capello has focused her administration on becoming accountable to the people. She has led the city in a new direction with impressive results. Lebanon has seen \$17 million of development in the last two years, and at least another \$24 million is planned for the next two years. She "got our house in order" by addressing a budget deficit, tackling numerous audit findings, negotiating a contract in 2011 for all three unions and non-union employees that saved the city \$150,000 and establishing a reserve fund for future capital purchases.

In December 2013, Capello received the prestigious Athena Award from the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce, recognizing her efforts to support, develop and honor women leaders in the community.

Capello also gives back to her alma mater. She serves on the Lebanon Campus Advisory Committee, has talked about government and politics to the Lebanon Campus Student Government Association leadership and participated in the HACC Gives Back community service project in Lebanon in September 2014.

HACC Impact

"One critical memory from college was during my first year in an economics class. The professor told us that we should not automatically accept what is told to us. We have our own minds. We can educate ourselves and develop our own informed decisions. That moment changed how I looked at everything in my life. Thank you, HACC! Thank you, educators!"